

Scoville Building
619-631 West Washington St.
Chicago
Cook County
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1114

HABS,
ILL,
16 CHIG,
91 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. IL-1114

SCOVILLE BUILDING

HABS,
ILL,
16 CHIG,
91-

Location: 619-631 West Washington Street,
Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.

Present Owner: Charles B. Scoville, Jr.

Present Use: Demolished.

Significance: This factory building, designed by Adler & Sullivan contains three different designs belonging to the transitional period (1880 and 1890) of Sullivan's ornament. This structure was the best and most ornamental of all the few remaining factory buildings by Adler & Sullivan.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. History of the structure:

The building was commissioned as a factory by James W. Scoville, a banker. When finished in 1885, it cost a total of \$44,444 which is low in comparison to a similarly designed building also by Adler & Sullivan, suggesting that this building was probably a remodeling instead of an entirely new construction. The various window detail and decorations distinguish each remodeling. It is probable that the center four bays were remodeled, the fifth floor added and the interior rebuilt. The previous building was assumed to have been partly destroyed by fire.

B. Bibliography:

Sprague, Paul E. Director, Illinois Historic Structures Survey, NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY-NOMINATION FORM, May 1973 and July 1973.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The Scoville Factory was rectangular in plan, 75' x 150', 6 x 12 bays wide and 5 stories high (plus basement) with brick bearing walls on all four sides. The ground floor fronts were modernized and have three different ornamental designs in terra cotta repeated above the fourth and fifth floor windows. One occurs over the fifth floor windows of the center cast iron bays on the Washington Street side, the second appears in the lunettes of the other windows on the same floor and the third is in the spandrels between the fourth and fifth floor windows. The ornamentation belongs to Sullivan's third period (1883-1886).

The interior is assumed to have been an open plan on all floors. The structure has slow-burning construction with massive columns and beams of wood carried by cast iron shoes.

Prepared by Patricia L. Rowse
From Information compiled by
Paul E. Sprague
(NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC
PLACES INVENTORY NOMINATION-
FORM),
August 1980

PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the General Service Administration Public Building Survey, Chicago, in compliance with Executive Order 11593 and a Memorandum of Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as a mitigative effort in its demolition. John A. Burns AIA, was the HABS project coordinator. Photographs were taken by Lester B. Knight. The records were edited by Patricia L. Rowse a historian from the HABS office in August 1980, from the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY-NOMINATIONS FORM, May 1973 and July 1973.